

## EMPLOYER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

September 27, 2001

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#### **DRS Members Present:**

Dave Nelsen, Chairperson.

#### **Additional DRS Staff Present:**

Steve Nelsen, Legal/Legislative Services; Gayle McGee, Public Employee's Retirement System; Brian Berghoff, Employer Support Services; Anne Holdren, Deferred Compensation Program; Rose Bossio, Strategic Initiatives; Kris Fjalstad, Strategic Initiatives; Marc Tremblay, Information Services; Brad Andrews, Strategic Initiatives.

#### **Employer Members Present:**

Les Adams, Kerry Schaefer and Cindy Lee, King County; Joanne Amrine, Chehalis School District; Bob Andrews, Kent School District; Paulette Gilliam, University of Washington; John Goetz, Center for Information Services; Brigitte Hoopes, City of Kent; Chandra Horan, Port of Seattle; Sally Spangler, Washington State Patrol; Nancy Savage, Pierce County; Pamm Scott, Bellevue Community College; Susan Sparks, Department of Personnel; Reagan Ulrich, Chelan County PUD 01; Jean Yeager, Department of Agriculture.

#### **Employer Members Not Present:**

Margo Anderson, Highline Community College; Mary Christle, Educational Service District; Tom Gaines, Washington School Information Processing Cooperative (WSIPC); Debbie Meach, Human Resources Information Systems Division (HRISD); Michelle Mortimer, City of Olympia.

#### **Agenda Items:**

- Legislative Summary & Interim Issues  
*Steve Nelsen*
- PERS 3 Update  
*Gayle McGee*
- Statewide Employer Relations Training Update  
*Brian Berghoff*
- Electronic Services Demo
  - Web Based Transmittal
  - Member Status Verification  
*Rose Bossio, Marc Tremblay, and Kris Fjalstad*
- Open Discussion  
*Committee*
- Agenda Items for Next Meeting  
*Committee*

**LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY AND INTERIM ISSUES**

The Joint Committee on Pension Policy (JCPP) has already started meeting every three weeks. The Committee has elected officers and took public comments on possible agenda items. The following items have been discussed:

- **Service Credit for On-Call PERS/SERS Employees**

Currently, PERS or SERS temporary employees must pay contributions and can earn service credit if they are in an eligible position. There is a proposal to treat these classified substitutes the same as certificated substitutes are treated. They would be able to purchase service credit each year if they choose.

- **TRS Plan 1 Extended School Year Employees**

TRS Plan 1 calculates a member's average final compensation based on the highest two fiscal years (fiscal year is July 1 - June 30). Some school districts have established extended school years that go beyond June 30. There is a proposal to redefine the AFC for these employees to include July and August.

At the next JCPP meeting, the Committee will be discussing two topics: Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' (LEOFF) Plan 1 Surplus and Pension Governance.

Please call Dave Nelsen at (360) 664-7163 or 1-800-547-6657 ext. 47163 or Steve Nelsen at (360) 664-7308 if you have any questions.

**PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (PERS) 3 UPDATE (Handout)**

Following are highlights of the PERS Plan 3 update:

- In the process of testing.
- Some employers want an in-house educator and for ICMA to teach the in-house educator.
- DRS will look at the video again to make sure the information is not redundant. (Video will be sent to employers not the members).
- A committee member suggested that there should be a beginner and advanced investment seminar classes.

**STATEWIDE EMPLOYER RELATIONS TRAINING UPDATE**

The upcoming employer training will be for both the payroll and human resources staff. The following is the upcoming training schedule for Phase I PERS 3 training:

- February 2002                      Colleges and technical groups
- November 30, 2001              State agencies  
February 12, 2002              (held in Tumwater at Labor & Industries building)
- Discussing Dates                  Four-year universities

The Phase II PERS 3 training is scheduled from May 2002 - August 2002.

**ELECTRONIC SERVICES DEMO**

- **WEB BASED TRANSMITTAL**
- **MEMBER STATUS VERIFICATION**

Rose Bossio, Marc Tremblay and Kris Fjalstad gave a demonstration on how the web based transmittal and member status verification applications work. DRS is still in the testing stage.

The monthly web based employer transmittal form is designed for use by employers with 30 employees or less. All employers will be encouraged to use the correction form and the member status verification.

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Nelsen at (360) 664-7163, 1-800-547-6657 ext. 47163 or by e-mail at [daven@drs.wa.gov](mailto:daven@drs.wa.gov).

### **OPEN DISCUSSION**

The following were issues or concerns that were raised at the meeting:

- Clarify the purpose of having a Plan 0. (Plan 0 is to keep active members separate.)
- Would like a copy of the document referring to service credit purchases for someone out on disability.
- A memo from Dave Nelsen was mailed out this last Friday or Monday to the benefits officers about temporary duty disability. If you would like a copy, contact Dave Nelsen.
- How do employers handle reporting for paid leave of absence for military recall? (DRS is checking into this).
- There will be PERS 3 frequently asked questions posted on the Web site.
- The employer section on the Internet is in the process of being redone.
- Has anyone looked at the early statutes regarding a Fire Relief account? (Dave will check with the LEOFF unit and Steve Nelsen.)
- Can there be an open window (every year or two years) for members in SERS and PERS to change their contribution rates?

### **The Next Meeting**

The next EAC meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2001, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the DRS Point Plaza West building located at 6835 Capitol Boulevard in Tumwater. Please see the map to DRS on the EAC Web site for directions to the facility.

### **There Were No Proposed Agenda Items for the December 6, 2001, Meeting**

A confirmed agenda will be available on the Employer Advisory Committee Web site in early November 2001.

### **Parking for the meetings**

There are visitor's parking spaces located in front of the building. You may also park in any stall that is not marked for another agency such as DSHS or OFM.

### **Questions**

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Nelsen at (360) 664-7163, 1-800-547-6657 ext. 47163 or by e-mail at [daven@drs.wa.gov](mailto:daven@drs.wa.gov).